

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

RAE KNIGHT, )  
                    )  
                    )  
Plaintiff,       )  
                    )  
vs.                )     Case No. 25-cv-289-SMY  
                    )  
                    )  
ACTING COMMISSIONER OF THE       )  
SOCIAL SECURITY       )  
ADMINISTRATION,       )  
                    )  
Defendant.

**MEMORANDUM AND ORDER**

**YANDLE, District Judge:**

Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1383(c), Plaintiff Rae Knight seeks judicial review of a final decision by the Commissioner of the United States Social Security Administration denying her claim for social security benefits (Doc. 1). Now pending before the Court is Knight's motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* ("IFP") without prepaying the filing fee (Doc. 2).

28 U.S.C. § 1915 authorizes a district court to allow an indigent plaintiff to proceed in a civil action without prepaying the filing fees if the plaintiff submits an affidavit of poverty stating that he or she is unable to afford the fees. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1). The statute also requires the Court to scrutinize the Complaint filed by an indigent plaintiff and to dismiss it if (a) the allegation of poverty is untrue; (b) the action is frivolous or malicious; (c) the action fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted; or (d) the action seeks monetary relief against a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). While § 1915 generally applies to *pro se* litigants, SDIL Local Rule 3.1(c)(1) contemplates that pauper status may also be granted to an applicant who is represented by an attorney.

Knight has submitted the requisite affidavit demonstrating that the \$405.00 filing fee presents a significant hardship. Therefore, the Court finds her to be indigent within the meaning of § 1915(a)(1). Knight alleges that she timely filed her appeal and has exhausted her administrative remedies. Her Complaint does not fail to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, and the named Defendant is not immune from suit for the requested relief. As such, the Court does not find that the action is frivolous or malicious. The motion for pauper status (Doc. 2) is therefore **GRANTED**.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**DATED:** March 13, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Staci M. Yandle". To the left of the signature is a circular official seal of the United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia. The seal features an eagle with wings spread, perched atop a shield with stars and stripes. The words "UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT" are at the top, and "WEST VIRGINIA" and "SOUTHERN DISTRICT" are at the bottom.

---

**STACI M. YANDLE**  
United States District Judge